

already occupied in the revision of the tribe Hecalini from Korea by Kwon and Lee (1979). As per the ICZN, *H. morrisoni* Rao and Ramakrishnan (1990) is a primary junior homonym of *H. morrisoni* Kwon and Lee (1979). Hence, a new name is proposed here for this species.

Hecalus paraumballaensis Ramasubbarao and Ramakrishnan nom. nov. = *Hecalus morrisoni* Ramasubbarao and Ramakrishnan in *Oriental Insects*, 24: 389, 1990.

This species is named as *paraumballaensis* since its male genitalia is very much like that of

H. umballaensis.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I thank Dr. A. Viraktamath, University of Agricultural Science, Bangalore, for the recognition of this primary homonym and for valuable comments.

April 17, 1996

V. RAMASUBBARAO

Dept. of Entomology, Agricultural College

Khammam dist.

Aswaraopet -507 301

(A.P.).

REFERENCES

RAMASUBBARAO, V. & U. RAMAKRISHNAN (1990): The Indian species of *Hecalus* with description of three new species (Homoptera: Cicadellidae). *Oriental Insects* 24: 385-397.

KWON, Y.J. & C.E. LEE (1979): Revision of the tribe Hecalini Distant from Korea. Nature and life in Southeast Asia. *Kyungpook J. Biological Sciences* 9(1): 41-48.

30. OCCURRENCE OF THE SPIDER CRAB *RHYNCHOPLAX ALCOCKI* KEMP (BRACHYURA: HYMENOSOMATIDAE) IN THENGAPATTANAM ESTUARY

(With one text-figure)

A large number of specimens of the crab *Rhynchoplax alcocki* have been collected by Gravely (1927) from Cochin, Alleppey and Paravur backwaters of Kerala. Chopra and Das (1930) reported that the genus *Rhynchoplax* is common in the backwaters of Kerala. Kemp (1917) gave the systematic descriptions of the different species of *Rhynchoplax* collected from Cochin backwaters and Portuguese India. Our description of *Rhynchoplax alcocki* is based on specimens collected from Thengapattanam estuary in Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu. Four specimens of *Rhynchoplax alcocki* were found on stone pavements encrusted with small filamentous algae and calcareous tubes of the polychaete *Serpula* sp., on the southern side of the estuary about 1 km away from the bar mouth.

Distinguishing features: The carapace is ovate in outline, width at the broadest median part being 4 mm. The surface of the carapace is demarcated by two median hexagons antero-

posteriorly, and the lateral hexagons are not distinctly visible. The length and maximum width of the carapace are almost equal.

The rostrum is trilobed, the median lobe being larger and with a rounded apex.

The eyes are large and more or less rounded anteriorly and narrowing posteriorly. A short, sharp tooth is present on the antero-lateral border of the carapace.

The chelipeds are not compressed. The length and width of the palm are almost equal. The length of the dactylus is greater than that of the palm. The fingers do not gape. Three teeth are visible on the upper margin of the merus. Carpus bears a tubercle on the antero-dorsal surface.

The first walking leg has four teeth at the posterior margin of the dactylus, including the apical one. The second to fourth have twelve teeth each and long hairy setae along the margin.

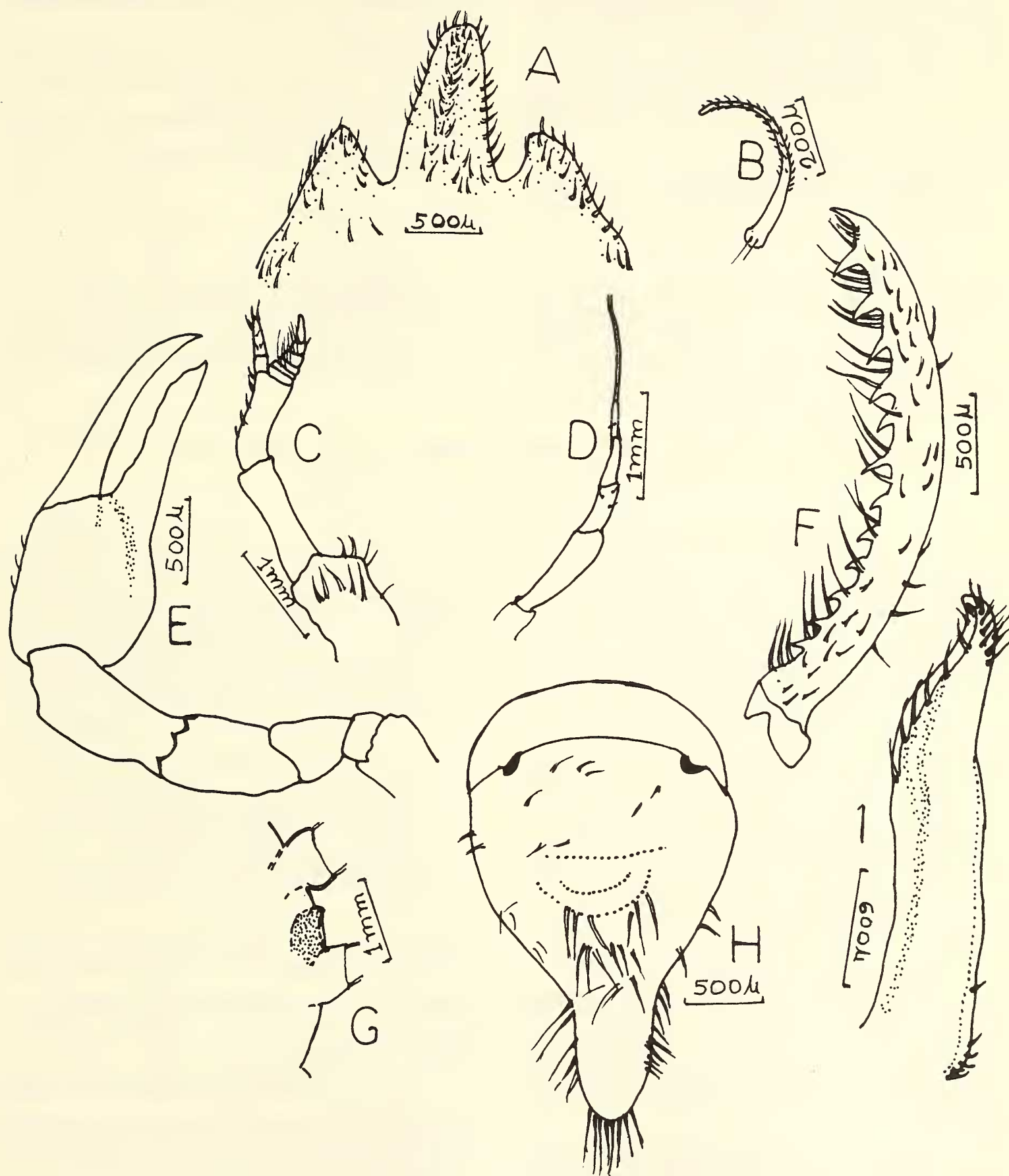


Fig. 1. *Rhynchoplax alcocki* Kemp. A. Rostrum; B. Single seta enlarged; C. Antennule; D. Antenna; E. Cheliped; F. Dactylus of 4th walking leg; G. Lateral wall of the carapace showing the tooth between the chela and the 1st walking leg; H. Abdomen; I. Gonopod.

The terminal segment of the abdomen is longer than the basal and not pointed as in *Rhynchoplax woodmasoni*.

The male gonopod is not considerably curved at its distal end. The curved end is very short. A row of setae on the interior external and distal margin is present.

Based on the characters, the present

specimen is an immature male. Kemp (1917) detailed the adult and juvenile structural changes.

February 19, 1997

L. PRABHADEVI

G. SARASWATHY AMMAL

Department of Aquatic Biology & Fisheries,
Beach P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695 007,
Kerala.

REFERENCES

- CHOPRA, B. & K.N. DAS (1930): On two new species of Hymenosomatid crabs, with notes on some other species. Further notes on Crustacea:Decapoda in the Indian Museum. *Rec. Indian Mus.* 32: 413-429.
- GRAVELY, F.H. (1927): Crustacea. In: The littoral fauna of Krusadai Island in the Gulf of Mannar. *Bull. Madras Govt. Mus.* (n.s.) i, no. 1, 141-155.
- KEMP, S. (1917) Notes on Crustacea:Decapoda in the Indian Museum-Hymenosomatidae. *Rec. Indian Mus.* 13: 243-279.

31. RECORD OF *TRIOPS* (CRUSTACEA: BRANCHIOPODA: NOTOSTRACA) FROM PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

During a survey of temporary rain-water pools of Pune we came across some tadpole shrimps, *Triops*, in a large pool on the Alandi road (about 15 km from Pune Station). We could collect only a couple of live specimens in August 1995 but there were several fragments of carapaces around, suggesting a large population in July. The same pool also contained a large population of fairy shrimps (*Streptocephalus dichotomus*) and clam shrimps (species not identified) which are known to be prey animals for *Triops*. The pool was at least 1.5 metres deep in the centre and contained muddy and turbid water.

Fox (1949) and Williams (1987) have dealt with nomenclature and habits of this interesting animal, known earlier as *Apus*. Though *Triops* has been reported from Panchgani (Karande and Inamdar 1959), it has not been reported from Pune.

Tiwari (1951) had discussed taxonomic status and listed Indian species of tadpole shrimps, which included what he considered to be two new species. Shanbagh and Inamdar (1968) have pointed out that *Triops* is an archaic genus that has been evolutionarily stagnant since

the Triassic period. They have also remarked on its rarity, having been recorded only from nine localities in India — from Kashmir in the Himalayas to Tirunelveli (Madras) in the south.

Sanjeeva Raj (1971), citing the work of Longhurst (1955), stated that there are only 4 valid species of the genus *Triops*, although more than 40 species had been described the world over. This is so because the genus is notorious for tremendous variation in external morphology. In India there are only two species — *Triops cancriformis* (Bosc) and *T. granarius* (Lucas). The former is mainly found in the Himalayas while the latter is found in the rest of India (at least south of Panchgani in Satara, Maharashtra). Surendra Nath considered *Apus kashmiriensis* Das to be a synonym of *T. cancriformis* (Surendra Nath 1979, 1985).

One of our college students, Mr. Sachin Ranade, observed hundreds of *Triops* in a stone quarry at Talegaon (on Pune - Mumbai road), on 28th June, 1996 and collected two poorly preserved specimens. All four specimens (two from Alandi road and two from Talegaon) have a carapace length of about 9 mm and total length (excluding furca) of about 13.5 mm.